



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

REGION 8, MONTANA OFFICE  
FEDERAL BUILDING, 10 W. 15<sup>th</sup> STREET, SUITE 3200  
HELENA, MONTANA 59626

August 30, 2002

SDMS Document ID



2002638

Ref: 8MO

Senator Conrad Burns  
Attn: Cindy Perdue-Dolan  
125 West Granite Street  
Butte, MT 59701

Dear Ms. Perdue Dolan,

Thank you for referring Joe Dow's August 8, 2002 letter to me for response. I empathize with his difficult situation. Unfortunately, EPA is restricted by its authority as to what it can do.

The Agency cannot purchase the property or compensate Mr. Dow for any losses he may have incurred as a result of his moving to Glendive. Nor can EPA compel the lender to make changes to the loan agreement.

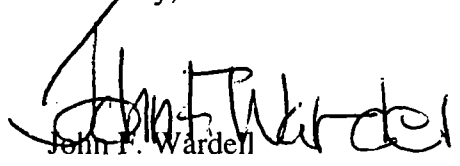
It may interest Mr. Dow to know that EPA's cleanup at the "Rainy Creek Nursery," the former screening plant property will be done by the end of the summer. Restoration work will then begin. The disappearance of clean-up equipment and red fences along with the appearance of grass next summer should be a welcome sight.

My staff will be happy to talk with Mr. Dow and/or his realtor or any prospective purchaser about the situation in Libby. Since Mr. Dow seems sure that the home is not contaminated, EPA can expedite a formal screening and offer a letter showing a clean bill of health for his home. EPA staff have been able, through clearing up some misunderstandings, to assist a few other Libby residents with home sales.

The media attention on the health risks of vermiculite in Libby has rightly caught people's attention. We hope that the cleanup will also be covered in the national news. EPA will work to get the good news out to the public as we progress with the cleanup of contaminated areas in Libby.

Please don't hesitate to call or have Mr. Dow call me at 406-457-5001 if you have further questions or concerns. You or Mr. Dow may also call Wendy Thomi, the Community Involvement Coordinator for the Libby site, at 406-457-5037.

Sincerely,

  
John F. Warden  
Director  
Montana Office

**RECEIVED**  
SEP - 4 2002  
Office of Enforcement  
Compliance & Environmental  
Justice



Printed on Recycled Paper